



ST. BEDE'S COLLEGE

15 January 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well. St. Bede's is quiet at the moment with the majority of our pupils working remotely from home, but I have been pleased to see how much progress has been made when I have dropped into several remote lessons. I would like our pupils to all have a "yes brain" mentality. If you believe you can do it, you are half way there! There is so much discussion in the media about when pupils will return, but for now we must focus on remote learning. My theme for this week has been:

***DON'T COUNT THE DAYS,
MAKE THE DAYS COUNT!***

If we look at what we achieve each day over the next few weeks' considerable progress will be made by everyone.

We are all facing different challenges so do please inform the College if there are any changes in home circumstances or your child has a problem with remote learning. I have been impressed with how our pupils have adapted to remote learning and we have had some very positive feedback so far. It is still early days with regard to the remote delivery and as a College we would like to monitor how everything is going. Please see link to a parent survey <https://forms.gle/WxW1go9niNjcwigQ6> - it would be appreciated if the survey could be completed by **Wednesday 20 January 2021**.

Academic

Pupils are spending a considerable amount of time working on devices. With regard to homework pupils in Upper Third, Lower Fourth and Upper Fourth are to review work given in class and ensure everything is submitted to their teacher(s) before the next lessons. Pupils in other year group will have their usual homework.

Summer Examinations – A Level and GCSE

This week Gavin Williamson has outlined his expectation for how summer examinations will be replaced. The following is a summary of the proposals:

- Gavin Williamson is in negotiations with Ofqual to produce a transparent system to allocate grades for GCSE and A Level examination;
- The possibility of sitting some form of examination/test to be taken in school and graded by teachers is being investigated. The aim is that the content will be based on what has been taught in school;
- Internal and external quality assurance plans to be put in place. There is a timescale on these proposals and once everything is finalised more information will be shared. The College's approach to the current situation is that pupils must continue as normal with classwork, homework, and assessments as if they were preparing



ST. BEDE'S COLLEGE

for the usual diet of summer examinations. Once changes are confirmed, and plans are put in place adaptations will be announced. We must ensure that our students do not get caught up in the social media buzz to avoid misinformation which could result in poor choices that impact on the actual grades;

IGCE

International GCSE are studied in Mathematics, English Language, English Literature and Modern Foreign Languages. At present we have been informed that these examinations will be taking place, but the guidance from Gavin Williamson is:

"It is my view that the approach taken to awarding these qualifications should be similar to that taken to GCSEs and A levels, and I would like the consultation to consider that approach".

Online Safety

As we undertake an extended period of online learning it is even more important to highlight online safety. The NSPCC has created a great resource to help parents speak to children about staying safe online.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/should-i-be-worried-about-my-child-sharing-videos-and-images-online2/>

It is also important that regular breaks and time away from a screen is factored into the day for pupils. Whilst remote education might be an exciting experience to begin with, having prolonged periods of time in front of a screen isn't always healthy. Remember to ensure children have regular screen breaks where possible and in their spare time, encourage them to get some fresh air and enjoy other activities away from electronic devices.

Remote education ultimately means working alone and missing out on daily social interaction with pupils' friends. If you notice your child feel frustrated, low or sad, it's important to discuss how they are feeling or direct them to speak to their form tutor. Keeping in touch with friends outside of lesson time is one way for pupils to keep their spirits up.

Co-curricular

A number of virtual activities are taking place at present:

- Remote Choir – Miss Smith asmith@stbedescollege.co.uk
- Remote training Sport – Mr Park mpark@stbedescollege.co.uk
- Remote Dance Club – Mrs Barber kbarber@stbedescollege.co.uk
- History Club - online lectures will be starting up again soon
- Preparation for the intermediate Mathematics challenge is underway
- Houses are running BTV online and are looking at ways of doing a fortnightly quiz



ST. BEDE'S COLLEGE

Well-being

There are several resources on the College website, but if you do have any concern about your child please contact their Head of Year.

Mrs Vyce (Head of Upper Third/Year 7):	avyce@stbedescollege.co.uk
Mr Mitchell (Head of Lower Fourth/Year 8):	lmitchell@stbedescollege.co.uk
Mr Parker (Head of Upper Fourth/Year 9):	mparker@stbedescollege.co.uk
Mr Hughes (Head of Lower Fifth/Year 10):	ahughes@stbedescollege.co.uk
Mr Sanders (Head of Upper Fifth/Year 11):	tsanders@stbedescollege.co.uk
Mrs Gallagher (Head of Sixth Form):	magallagher@stbedescollege.co.uk

Pupils on site and COVID Safety

Well done to all of our critical worker pupils. You have worked really hard this week.

College Entrance Examination

The 11+ College entrance examination took place last Saturday 9 January (remotely). The interview process commences tomorrow and will continue throughout next week and on Saturday 23 January. The interviews will be conducted following strict Covid-19 safety guidelines. Please contact our Admission Managers if you have any queries regarding admission to the College [admissions@stbedescollege.co.uk].

Year 9/Upper Fourth Parents Evening

There were a few additional challenges with the Year 9/Upper Fourth Parents Evening last night. It is great to receive so many positive comments today about how quickly our Teachers adapted and were so professional with the delivery throughout the evening. If you have any concerns about this event, please contact Mr Parker, Head of Upper Fourth mparker@stbedescollege.co.uk - please see explanatory statement from SchoolCloud below:

“SchoolCloud provides parents’ evening software to over 5,000 schools, and experienced an outage on 14th January affecting the parents & teachers accessing video calls at that time. An update to the system in December caused a web page to perform slowly and this ultimately took the system offline. This wasn’t up to the high standard of service that schools expect of us, nor that we expect of ourselves. We have already made changes, and continue to take further steps to ensure that you can continue to enjoy this new format of parents’ evenings.”



ST. BEDE'S COLLEGE

For Your Diary:

Saturday 16 January	11+ Interviews
Thursday 21 January	Year 11/Upper Fifth Parents Evening
Saturday 23 January	11+ Interviews
Thursday 4 February	Year 12/Lower Sixth Parents Evening
Thursday 11 February	Year 10/Lower Fifth Parents Evening

Friday 12 February
Monday 22 February

Half Term begins at 3.50pm
College and Prep reopens following Half Term break (further Government guidance on whether lessons will be remote or on site will follow in due course)

Thursday 4 March	Year 8/Lower Fourth Parents Evening
Thursday 11 March	Year 8/Lower Fourth and Year 9/Upper Fourth Options Evening

Please note that all parent/teacher events will be held remotely until further notice.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Pike
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs Sandra Pike BSc (Hons), DipEd, M.Ed

Alexandra Park
Manchester
M16 8HX
Tel: 0161 226 3323
Fax: 0161 226 3813

www.sbcm.co.uk
enquiries@stbedescollege.co.uk
twitter: @stbedescollege
St Bede's College Charity: 700808
 St Bede's College